

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 8, 2004. Claims 3, 7, 13 to 20, 43 and 45 to 54 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8 to 12, 21, 23 to 30, 32, 42, 44 having been cancelled. Claims 3, 7 and 43 have been amended, and Claims 3, 7, 13 43, 45 and 53 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 13 to 20 and 45 to 54.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 3, 7 and 43 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims. In keeping with the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 7 and 43, Applicants have rewritten each of these claims into independent form and to include the limitations of their respective base claims. Consequently, independent Claims 3, 7 and 43 as amended are seen to be in condition for allowance.

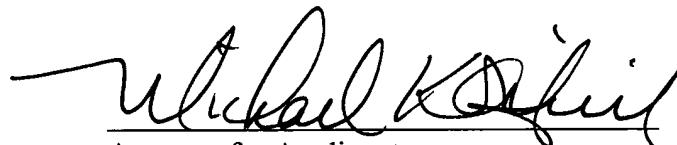
In the Office Action, Claims 1, 4 to 6, 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,469,307 (Takabayashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,469,307 (Oi) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,153,438 (Kingsley); Claims 10 to 12, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takabayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,384,417 (Okamura) and further in view of Kingsley; Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takabayashi in view of Oi and Kingsley and further in view of Okamura; Claims 24 to 29 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takabayashi in view of Okamura and Kingsley and further in view of Oi; and Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takabayashi in view of Oi and further in view of

Kingsley and U.S. Patent No. 6,160,259 (Petrillo). Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8 to 12, 21, 23 to 30, 32, 42, 44 have been cancelled and are being re-presented in a divisional application filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, cancellation is without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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